THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) The annual requirements of the Army are worked out on the basis of Annual Provision Review. To the extent of the capacity of the Ordinance Factories orders for procurement of blankets are placed on them. Thereafter, orders are booked on NTC/BIC upto their production capacity. The balance requirements, it any, are procured from trade through DGS&D. NTC/BIC have confirmed that no large scale purchase of blankets was resorted to by them from private companies.

Armed Light Helicopter

4425. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress in the manufacture of Armed Light Helicopter; and

(b) when will it be pressed into service ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) HAL has not taken up the manufacture of an Armed Light Helicopter. They are, however, engaged in the design and development of an Advanced Light Helicopter, which may be productionised in the 1990s.

Assistance for Remote Sensing Centre at Ludhiana

4426. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance has been given to Punjab State for strengthening the Remote Sensing Centre at Ludhina; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, whether there is any proposal in this regard and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Space (DOS) has extended to the Punjab Government assistance in technical as well as organizational areas for the establishment of the State Remote Sensing Application Centre at Ludhiana. The Department is extending continued support through its representatives, who are members of the Governing Body of the Centre.

Plot to Murder Political Leaders/ Prime Minister

4427. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state the steps initiated by the Government of India with the Government of Pakistan and other international bodies following the findings relating to incriminating documents on the plots for murdering Indian political leaders including the Prime Minister ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : Government's concern regarding Pakistan's involvement in extremist activities directed against India has repeatedly been conveyed to the Government of Pakistan. That Government has been informed that its involvement with such extremist elements could not but affect the process of normalisation of relations between the two countries.

This House was also informed on the 12th of May that Government does not propose to take up in the international fora Pakistan's complicity in terrorist activities in Punjab and that it is Government's policy to settle bilateral differences with Pakistan through bilateral negotiations.

Export of Arms by India

4428. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian arms are being exported to international markets at present ;

(b) if so, what is the scope of marketing Indian arms and the value of exports of Indian arms during the last 3 years ;

(c) whether Government have plans to encourage arms manufacturing in private sector for export purpose in view of a vast market for the same in developing nations; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : (a) and (b) Limited export of arms, surplus to our requirements, is undertaken on very selective basis to friendly countries. Details regarding export of arms are of classified nature and cannot be divulged in national interest.

(c) Government have no plans at present to encourage arms manufacturing in private sector for export purpose.

(d) Question does not arise in view of reply against part (c) above.

Identification of Earth Quake Prone Areas.

4429. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the earth quake prone areas identified in the country;

(b) whether any advance warning system has been indigenously developed to detect tremors and for timely warning to the people and authorities in the affected areas ;and

(c) what steps have been proposed to provide quick relief in the event of a earth quake ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYNAN): (a) No part of the country is totally free from earthquakes. Based on the data of the earlier earthquakes and geological features, the country has been divided into the following five zones depending on the magnitude of seismic activity:—

Zone V—Whole of Northeast India, West Uttar Pradesh hills, Rann of Kutch, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Parts of Kashmir